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Spy Trial Is Told Defendant Had Access to Secrets

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ALEXANDRIA, Va. Feb 5 — A retired analyst for the Central Intelligence Agency, accused of spying for the Chinese, had access to handwritten reports from covert agents in the field and intelligence reports prepared for the President, his supervisor testified today.

In the second day of the trial of the retired analyst, Larry Wu-Tai Chin, the supervisor, Cyril Braegelmann, said that Mr. Chin received a wide variety of classified documents in his job at the Foreign Broadcast Information Service.

The broadcast service is the arm of the Central Intelligence Agency that translates and interprets broadcasts and publications received largely from open sources. Mr. Braegelmann said, however, that the broadcast service's employees at its headquarters in Rosslyn, Va., where Mr. Chin worked from 1970 to 1981, were routinely given completed intelligence reports written by analysts at the C.I.A. and other agencies.

Material Offered Perspective

This allowed the officers at the broadcast service to see where the material they were translating fitted into this country's broad intelligence requirements, Mr. Braegelmann said.

Included on the list of documents to which Mr. Chin had access were secret Government assessments of the major issues in particular regions or countries. These are given to the President and they represent the consensus opinion of all agencies.

Another document available to Mr. Chin was the C.I.A.'s biographic reports analyzing the character and tendencies of China's leaders and other leaders of the world, Mr. Braegelmann said. Mr. Braegelmann said Mr. Chin was also called upon to translate handwritten reports sent to United States intelligence officers by covert Chinese agents.

The Government has charged that Mr. Chin gave the Chinese large amounts of sensitive material. Mr. Chin's attorney, Jacob Stein, admitted that his client passed documents to the Chinese, but asserted that he did so in an effort to speed reconciliation between China and the United States.

In pretrial testimony, the Federal Bureau of Investigation said it took translators in China several months to complete work on the material provided by Mr. Chin.

Mr. Braegelmann testified that security procedures at the broadcast service did not include routine searches of people leaving the building. Mr. Chin told Federal agents that he carried documents home with in his briefcase or coat pockets.

He said guards at the broadcast service's headquarters never searched employees clothing and only performed "spot checks" on brief cases.

At one point in his career, Mr. Chin was sent to Seoul, Korea, to train new Chinese translators. "He was one of the best Chinese language translators we ever had," he said.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Chin's counsel pressed an F.B.I. agent, Mark Johnson, to elaborate on his source of detailed information on Mr. Chin's activities. On Nov. 22, bureau agents confronted Mr. Chin with accusations so detailed that he assumed his Chinese handler had defected.

Mr. Johnson said, "We never reveal our sources." In response to questions, Mr. Johnson said he had not discussed the documents in the case with Mr. Chin's Chinese handler.

Intelligence sources say that the case began with a tip from a high-level Chinese defector, but they declined to provide his name. The sources said, however, that it was quite possible that Chinese intelligence officials other than Mr. Chin's handler had access to the material.